1689
F11

Columbia University
in the City of New York

LIBRARY

THE SELIGMAN LIBRARY OF ECONOMICS

PURCHASED BY THE UNIVERSITY

1929

1689E G56

1689
F11

Columbia University
in the City of New York

LIBRARY

THE SELIGMAN LIBRARY OF ECONOMICS

PURCHASED BY THE UNIVERSITY

1929

1689E G56

Edwin R. Seligman

THE FRENCH BINDERS GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

THE

GOLDEN FLEECE REVIVED; &c.

By *J. F.*

LONDON:
Printed in the Year 1689.

III. *Whether the general Idleneſs in the meaner ſort o People, either not working at all, or elſe at Exceſſive Rate doth not render our Cloath or Stuff-makers uncapable to mak the Manufacture at as eaſie Rates as Foreigners do, therefor cannot Vend as cheap as they in Foreign Marts?*

To this latter Cauſe, I ſhall endeavour to apply a Reme dy that may both keep our *Woll* at home, and work i out: *Viz.*

I. *An Act of Parliament to Erect Workhouſes in a Counties more or leſs, ſuitable to the Extent or Commodiouſ neſs of each County for Manufacture, on the Bublic Charges.*

II. *That in theſe Workhouſes ſeveral Wards or Apart ments ſhould be for Male Children from Six years and upwards Female from Five and upwards. Over the Males an Exper Clothier, over the Females a Grave Matron, skilled in Spin ning, Knitting, &c. All the Males to be releaſed at 24 years of Age, the Females at 21, to obviate the Reproach of Bon dage.*

III. *That inſtead of the Act of 43 of* Elizabeth, *thi Act ſhould require the Churchwardens and Overſeers of al Pariſhes, to ſend in all Children that are Chargeable, or likely to be ſo at the Ages aforeſaid, into the ſaid Workhouſes, and to pay in part of the Monies collected in each Pariſh half yearly, to defray the Charge of the ſaid Operatories, and to ſend in Woll, Flax, Hemp, &c. to ſet the ſaid Poor on work.*

IV. *That*

IV. *That every Parish should send once in the Year one able Person to examine the Accompts of the House, and enquire into the Behaviour of the Governors and Officers thereof, and to place and displace, as they shall see Cause.*

V. *A pound Rate of* 12 d. per l. *on all Lands and Hereditaments, Personal Estate,* &c. *over* England *and* Wales, *may probably defray the Charge of building Workhouses; And the* 2d *Year* 6 d. per l. *as aforesaid, may defray the Charge of Looms, Stockeards, Hand-Cards, and all working Tools and Utensils for the said House.*

VI. *That after the Houses are thus erected and setled, the Poor all over the Kingdom will be so lessened, that a small Charge will maintain these younger sort of Children in work, and take off so much Charge of the Parishes, that they will have little to do, but to relieve the Aged and Impotent; which may be done by voluntary Collections, and charitable Benevolences in every Parish.*

The Benefit that will certainly attend the whole Kingdom by the aforesaid means, are these: *Viz.*

I. *It will take off the Charge of all indigent People in all Parts of the Land, that they shall be inured with Work, before they be corrupted with Idleness and Thievery.*

II. *It will be a means to work out all our Wooll that now either rots at Home, or is transported by desperate Men that have little to venture but their Lives, they only making the Gain, the innocent Grasier getting nothing but the hazard of an Information against him, when the Transporter is caught,*

who

who palliates his Fact with Perjury, and diſappoints the Seller.

III. *What hath only been pretended to by the Clothiers and Workers of Wooll,* viz. *the whole and ſole Manufacture of all* Engliſh, Iriſh, *and* Scotiſh *Wooll, may in one Year or two, by the aforeſaid means, be happily accompliſhed, and never till then ſhall we be able to underſel the* French, Fleming, *and all other Foreign Manufacturors, our Work being done cheaper than theirs, being carried on not only by private Hands, but the publick Purſe of the Kingdom, and by that which is now worſe than loſt. I mean relieving the Poor in Idleneſs.*

IV. *This will raiſe the price of Wooll, and keep it up to that degree, that Tenants may be enabled to pay their Rents, and preſerve the Marſhes, Fenns, and Sheep Walks from further Spoil and Deſtruction, which the many late Years of Cheapneſs hath expoſed to Fire and Ruine: For in moſt Wooll-growing Countries, their beſt Breeding Walks are ſo waſted by* Devonſhiring, *that all ſucceeding Ages will feel the Inconvenience, and our preſent time ſuffers in the abundance of Corn and Grain thereby produced, that our Arable Farms, inſtead of bringing in Rent, ſcarcely defrays the Charge of Agriculture.*

I would not have it thought that I have forgotten to have the ſturdy Vagrants and Beggars ſet on work that ſwarm in all parts of this Land, provoking God by a lewd Life, ſtarving the Poor, by eating the Bread of their Neighbours Charity, the Houſes of Corrections ſhould be filled with theſe, and there are enough already erected, if well governed, and ſuch Maſters appointed over them, as ſhould not only moderately correct them, but carefully provide Work of all ſorts as ſuch People are capable of, and

no great Charge will they put the Country to, if Care be taken that they eat no more than their Wages, for Chriſtianity tells us, *Such as do not work, ſhould not eat.*

I do never expect to ſee *England* flouriſh, until it returns unto this old and good way of Induſtry; For as the diligent Hand makes Rich, ſo the Sluggard will fall into extreme Want; And as Poverty brings particular Men into Contempt, ſo a Kingdom will no longer retain Reputation, than it can advance the Price of its Native Growth. And for the clamorous Clothiers and Merchants that ſpend Vollies of Complaints upon Tranſporters, do not once offer any way to work our Wooll cheap, but trouble all Parliaments with making Acts againſt the Tranſporters, in order to have the ſole Monopoly of Wooll, and bringing all the Graſiers in *England* under their Girdles. If they be truly Ingenious, (as I believe ſome of them are not ſo unreaſonable as the Merchants and Staplers are) they will readily comply with theſe Propoſals, there being nothing in them may prejudice their Trade, but truly compaſs their pretended Deſign to ſet the Poor on Work, and advance the Price of Wooll, and the Dearer that is, the greater will the Price of all their Manufactures be both at Home and Abroad. And there is no Cloathworker but confeſſes, the dearer Wooll, the more the Price of Manufactures advance alſo. Upon theſe Conſiderations, a Free Trade will certainly be effected.

Thus have I caſt in my Mite towards the Recovery of a ſinking Manufacture, and a decaying Kingdom, humbly imploring Almighty God to bleſs all Endeavors of this kind, that may proceed from better Hands, and apter Heads than his that is the leaſt in *Politicks* and *Georgicks*.

J. F.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]